SAN FERNANDO SUPERFUND SITE AREA 1

BURBANK, CA

AUGUST 1989

EPA ANNOUNCES CLEANUP PLAN FOR BURBANK AREA

EPA SIGNS RECORD OF DECISION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved plans to clean up contaminated groundwater in the Burbank area of the San Fernando Area 1 Superfund site in Los Angeles County, California (see Figure l).

On June 30, 1989, EPA's Regional Administrator signed a Record of Decision (ROD) that outlines EPA's plans for cleaning up contaminated groundwater. The clean-up plan consists of pumping and treating the contaminated groundwater to meet drinking water standards and reusing the treated water in the City of Burbank's water supply.

BACKGROUND

In July 1987, EPA and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) signed a cooperative agreement initiating clean-up activities for San Fernando Superfund sites. DWP has the lead on the overall site investigations, and EPA has the lead on developing & choosing cleanup alternatives, enforcement, community relations, and overall coordination of the cleanup.

The Burbank area clean-up plan is the second one in the San Fernando Valley Basin site. In September 1987 EPA signed a ROD selecting a plan to address the public health threat posed by Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in the DWP public supply wells located in the North Hollywood area. The North Hollywood area treatment facility has been constructed and went into operation in March 1989.

EPA'S CLEAN-UP PLAN

The clean-up action EPA is selecting in this ROD for the Burbank area is designed to achieve two objectives:

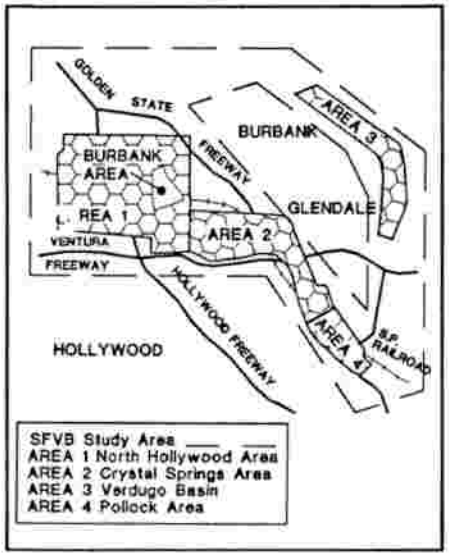

Figure 1 - San Fernando Superfund Site Burbank Area Regional Map

l) To partially control the movement and spread of groundwater contaminants in the Burbank area, thereby helping to restore the aquifer in Area l.

2) To provide residents in the area with a water supply that meets state and federal drinking water standards.

The clean-up plan involves the extraction of groundwater from the most highly contaminated zones and treating it by running it through air or steam stripping towers. If air stripping is used, vapor-phase granular activated carbon adsorption units would be used to control VOC air emissions. Monitoring wells will be placed on the edge of the contaminant plume to monitor the reliability of the system. The contaminated groundwater will be treated to concentrations below state and federal drinking water quality standards. The treated groundwater will be used as a water supply for the Burbank Public Service Department customers by feeding the treated water directly into Burbank's water distribution system.

These clean-up remedies were chosen because they have worked at similar sites and because they are cost-effective.

The estimated capital cost of the clean-up plan is about $32 million; the estimated annual operation and maintenance costs are about $5 million, giving a total present worth of about $69 million.

BASINWIDE CLEAN-UP

This plan for the Burbank area

addresses part of the overall groundwater contamination problem in the San Fernando Valley Basin (SFVB) Area. This Basin area includes four Superfund sites with groundwater contamination. The clean-up will control migration of contamination in the groundwater basin where additional public water supply wells located downgradient from the contamination are threatened. It will also help to restore the aquifer in the Burbank area.

DWP is currently conducting a basinwide remedial investigation of the extent of contamination in the San Fernando Valley Basin Superfund sites. EPA will develop a range of alternatives to clean up basinwide contamination. Results of the investigation and recommendations for cleanup are expected to be released for public comment in 1993.

NEXT STEPS

EPA's next steps for the Burbank cleanup will be to enter into negotiations with the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) -- those who may be legally responsible for site cleanup -- to reach an agreement in which the PRPs would pay for the design, construction and operation of the treatment system. EPA will oversee work at the site.

Within the next five years clean-up activities will begin after detailed design plans for the clean-up are completed. During this stage, EPA or the PRPs will describe specific methods and procedures for groundwater pumping, treating, discharging and groundwater monitoring. EPA will coordinate with the City of Burbank to minimize any adverse impacts to the City. When design work is completed, field work to clean up the site will begin.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions or would like more information on the Burbank area cleanup, please contact:

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EPA SUPERFUND TOLL-FREE INFORMATION LINE: (800) 231-3075

If you call the toll-free number, please leave a message on the answering machine, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Copies of the ROD and Administrative Record (which is a file continuence) documents that support EPA's choice of cleanup method are available for review at:

City of Burbank Public Library
110 North Glenoaks Street
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Telephone number: (818) 953-9737

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